



U.S. Immigration
and Customs
Enforcement

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News Release

SEMINARY GRADUATE SENTENCED FOR KIDDIE PORN

Student was within two days of being ordained as a Catholic priest when he was arrested in June

TOLEDO, Ohio—A seminary student who was within days of being ordained as a Catholic priest upon his arrest, was sentenced Tuesday in the U.S. District Court here to 37 months in prison and five years probation following an investigation by U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE).

John Tynan, 46, of Lima, Ohio, was convicted on one count of possessing child pornography, and was sentenced by U.S. District Court Judge David A. Katz. ICE agents executed a search warrant at Tynan's residence in June 2004, two days before he was to be ordained as a Catholic priest.

ICE special agents obtained a search warrant based on leads generated from earlier seizures and credit card information from a Belarus-based Internet child-porn company. These leads identified Tynan as having subscribed to child pornography Internet web sites. ICE forensic analysis of Tynan's computer uncovered more than 570 child pornography images and movies on his computer hard drive.

"Using ICE's unique expertise and authority to keep sexual predators and child pornographers away from Ohio's children is a special role that we take seriously," said Brian M. Moskowitz, special agent-in-charge of the ICE Detroit Office of Investigations. "It's satisfying to know that ICE efforts in this investigation have made this community safer."

This arrest was part of Operation Predator, a nationwide ICE initiative to protect children from sexual predators, including: those who travel overseas for sex with minors, internet child pornographers, criminal alien sex offenders, and child sex traffickers. Since Operation Predator was launched in July 2003, ICE agents have arrested more than 5,300 individuals, including 49 in Ohio.

The president and technical administrator of the Belarus-based child pornography and money-laundering enterprise both pleaded guilty March 1 to running the operation, which catered to untold thousands of subscribers worldwide. Seven others in the company had also previously pleaded guilty. The ICE-led investigation resulted in the arrest of more than 1,200 child-porn website subscribers.

ICE encourages the reporting of suspected child predators and any suspicious activity through its toll-free hotline at 1-866-DHS-2ICE. Investigators staff this hotline around the clock.

Suspected child sexual exploitation or missing children may be reported to the National Center for Missing & Exploited Children, an Operation Predator partner, at 1-800-843-5678 or <http://www.cybertipline.com>.

Tom Secore, Assistant U.S. Attorney, Northern District of Ohio, Western Division, prosecuted this case.

ICE

U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement was established in March 2003 as the largest investigative arm of the Department of Homeland Security. ICE is comprised of five integrated divisions that form a 21st century law enforcement agency with broad responsibilities for a number of key homeland security priorities.